

RAW MARSH
Urban District Council.



THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1898,

BY

JAMES PICKEN, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rawmarsh
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my tenth Annual Report, I have to congratulate the Council on the continued material prosperity of the district, as evidenced by the large number of new dwelling-houses erected, and the great addition to the population which, I believe, have not been equalled in any previous year. This continued, and rapid growth means increased responsibilities, and need for greater watchfulness as to the conditions affecting, or likely to affect, the health of the inhabitants. I cannot regard it as satisfactory that I have to report for 1898, as for 1897, a death-rate higher than the average rate for the previous ten years. A glance at table VI. shows this rate in a still less satisfactory light. The infant mortality is the highest I have had to record.

One hundred and sixty-four new houses were occupied during the year, against ninety-four in 1897—104 in Rawmarsh and sixty in Parkgate, as compared with ninety-two and two respectively during the previous year.

The estimated population for 1899 is 14,646.

HOUSES, POPULATION, &c.

	RAWMARSH	PARKGATE.	WHOLE PARISH.
Acreage, 1891	2549
Acreage, 1898	2549
Number of Houses built and occupied during 1898	104	60	164
Number of Houses at the end of 1898	1285	1491	2776
Population at Census 1891	4907	7076	11983
Population estimated to middle of 1898.....	6160	7625	13785
Population estimated to middle of 1899.....	6702	7944	14646

VITAL STATISTICS.



BIRTHS.

Five hundred and one births (267 males and 234 females) were registered during the year, being six less than in 1897, and giving a birth-rate of 36·34 per thousand inhabitants, against 38·54 for 1897, and 29·4 for England and Wales for 1898.

Fifteen of the births were of illegitimate children.

TABLE I.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the year for each district and for the whole parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1000 per Annum
		MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.	
Rawmarsh..	6160	128	93	221	35·87
Parkgate ...	7625	139	141	280	36·72
Whole Parish	13785	267	234	501	36·34

TABLE II.

Showing the births and birth-rate for the Parish for each quarter and for the whole year.

QUARTER.	BIRTHS.	BIRTH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First quarter.....	142	41·20
Second „	132	38·30
Third „	106	30·75
Fourth „	121	35·11
Whole year	501	36·34

DEATHS.

Two hundred and sixty-seven deaths (146 males and 121 females) were registered during the year, being 12 more than in 1897, and giving a death-rate of 19·36 per thousand inhabitants, against 19·42 for 1897. This compares unfavourably with 17·6 for the whole of England and Wales, and more so with 16·7, the rate for England and Wales, less the 100 large towns. It is also ·76 above the average death-rate for the Parish for the last ten years.

The mortality of infants under one year is considerably above that of 1897. One hundred and three were registered, against 89 during the previous year, giving an infant mortality of 7·47 per thousand inhabitants, and equal to 205 per thousand births registered, against 175 for 1897. This is 44 per thousand births registered higher than the infant mortality for England and Wales. One hundred and fifty-three died under five years of age, being ten more than during the previous year, and giving a death-rate 11·09 per thousand inhabitants, equal to 57 per cent. of the total number of deaths, against 56 recorded for 1897.

Thirty-one deaths were registered of persons aged 65 and upwards, against 36 during 1897. The aggregate ages of 19 of those aged 70 and upwards amounted to 1416 years, giving an average of over 74 years.

The mortality from Bronchitis and Pneumonia is 3·26 per thousand inhabitants, as compared with 3·8 for 1897. Four children under five years died of the one disease, and 24 of the other, during the year, being a decrease of ten and an increase of 11 respectively as compared with the previous year.

The Phthisis death-rate is 1·23 per thousand inhabitants, against ·98 for 1897.

There is a decrease in the number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases, 54 being recorded, against 66 for 1897, and giving a Zymotic death-rate of 3·91 per 1000 inhabitants, against 5·01 for the previous year, and 2·22 for the whole of England and Wales.

During the year six persons were accidentally killed at collieries; and one—a boy—met his death by being knocked down by a horse on the street.

TABLE III.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the year for each District and for the whole Parish.

DISTRICT.	POPULATION.	DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
		MALES	F'MALS	TOT'LS	
Rawmarsh	6160	80	56	136	22·07
Parkgate	7625	66	65	131	17·18
Whole Parish	13785	146	121	267	19·36

TABLE IV.

Showing the Deaths and Death-rate for the Parish for each quarter, and for the whole year.

QUARTER	DEATHS.	DEATH-RATE PER 1000 PER ANNUM.
First Quarter.....	43	12·47
Second ,,	62	17·90
Third ,,	90	26·11
Fourth ,,	72	20·89
Whole year	267	19·36

TABLE V.

The following tabular statement shows the Zymotic Diseases referred to, and the number of deaths and rates of mortality caused by them in each district during the years 1897 and 1898.

	1897.			1898.		
	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlatina.....	—	—	—	7	3	11
Measles	6	22	28	2	1	3
Diphtheria	1	1	2	2	—	2
Croup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	4	6	10
Typhoid Fever...	3	3	6	1	—	1
Diarrhœa	16	13	29	15	13	28
Total	26	40	66	31	23	54
Zymotic death-rate per 1000 annum.	4·69	5·25	5·01	4·96	3·01	3·91

TABLE VI.

Showing the Birth-rate, Death-rate, Zymotic Death-rate, and Infant Mortality for the whole Parish, England and Wales, &c., for the year 1898.

1898.	Parish of Rawmarsh.	England and Wales.	Thirty-three great towns.	Sixty-seven other large towns.	England and Wales, less the 100 towns
Birth-rate.....	36·34	29·4	—	—	—
Death-rate	19·36	17·6	19·0	17·2	16·7
Zymotic Death-rate ...	3·91	2·22	2·85	2·41	1·75
Infant Mortality.....	205	161	178	173	145

TABLE VII.

Showing the Diseases to which the 267 Deaths are attributed, the district in which they occurred, and the number referred to each Disease.

DISEASES.	Raw-marsh.	Park-gate.	Whole Parish.
Small-pox.....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	3	11
Diphtheria	2	—	2
Croup	—	—	—
FEVERS } Typhus	—	—	—
	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—
Measles	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	4	6	10
Diarrhœa and Dysentry	15	13	28
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—
Ague	—	—	—
Phthisis	3	14	17
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and	25	20	45
Heart Disease..... [Pleurisy	6	8	14
Injuries	3	4	7
All other Diseases	66	62	128
Influenza	1	—	1
Total	136	131	267

TABLE VIII.

Showing the age at which the 267 Deaths occurred.

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Whole Parish.
Under 1 Year.....	55	48	103
1 and under 5.....	31	19	50
5 „ 15.....	1	3	4
15 „ 25.....	7	11	18
25 „ 65.....	21	40	61
65 and upwards	21	10	31
Total	136	131	267

TABLE IX.

Showing the Monthly Mortality.

	Total Deaths.				Zymotic Diseases.		Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.		Phthisis.
	Under 5 years.	5 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Total.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	
January	5	11	1	17	0	1	2	0	5
February	4	5	2	11	0	0	1	1	0
March	8	6	1	15	1	0	2	3	1
April	13	4	0	17	3	0	6	1	2
May	16	3	5	24	4	0	4	0	0
June	9	9	3	21	2	0	2	1	1
July	8	7	2	17	0	0	2	1	1
August	21	9	2	32	8	1	3	1	2
September ...	31	7	3	41	21	1	1	3	0
October	17	6	5	28	6	0	1	1	2
November	9	6	1	16	2	0	3	0	0
December	12	10	6	28	4	0	1	5	3
Total	153	83	31	267	51	3	28	17	17

TABLE X.

Showing the natural increase in the population by Births over Deaths.

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Whole Parish
Births	221	280	501
Deaths	136	131	267
Increase ...	85	149	234

SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever was more or less prevalent, especially at Rawmarsh, during the whole year. The disease spread chiefly by inter-communication between friends and relatives, the distance from the infecting to infected houses being sometimes considerable, and in one instance over two miles. The following table shows the number and distribution of the cases.

	Rawmarsh.		Parkgate.		Whole Parish.	
	Cases.	Houses.	Cases.	Houses.	Cases.	Houses.
Jan. ..	4	2	1	1	5	3
Feb. ...	5	2	—	—	5	2
March..	11	10	1	1	12	11
April ...	8	6	3	1	11	7
May ...	11	8	11	8	22	16
June ...	15	11	8	5	23	16
July .	6	6	5	4	11	10
Aug.	9	8	7	6	16	14
Sept. ...	19	14	5	4	24	18
Oct. ...	26	16	5	4	31	20
Nov. ...	17	11	4	4	21	15
Dec. ...	6	4	4	4	10	8
Totals..	137	98	54	42	191	140

Forty-one cases from 34 of the houses were removed to the Isolation Hospital. None of these proved fatal. The rapid improvement in all the severe cases treated there was striking, and, I think, was due chiefly to the increased air space and purer atmosphere of the Hospital (although its construction &c., cannot be defended) as compared with private houses. Ten deaths were registered during the year as due to this disease, a death rate of 6·6 per cent. outside the Hospital against *nil* inside.

MEASLES.—A few cases of Measles came to my knowledge during April, May, and June. On July 22nd the Sanitary Inspector and myself visited Rosehill, Rycroft, and Sandhill, and discovered 64 cases of Measles in 41 houses. In 35 of these houses the first case was a child attending the Rycroft

Board School, and in 20 of the 35 there were other children susceptible to the disease, but under school age, who were not attacked or were attacked subsequently. From a considerable number of the infected houses there were other children who attended the Dale Road Girls' and the Grammar School, and thus greatly increased the risk of introducing the disease to these schools. I advised the closure of the Rycroft School, and this was immediately done. The epidemic then soon subsided. Three deaths were caused by the disease during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Fifteen cases of Enteric Fever were reported during the year. They were scattered over the township and occurred, five in January, one each in March, April, and June, three in September, one in October, two in November, and one in December. Defective drains were found associated with several of them, and in one instance the disease was probably contracted from a privy midden infected before notification of a prior case in the same block of buildings. The most likely source of another contracted at the end of May or beginning of June was the very foul condition of a branch of the Canal, where he was employed from early in the morning till late at night. One reported on January 7th was the wife of a canal boatman. On visiting the boat, which had arrived in the district two days previously, I found it occupied by the husband, wife, and two children. She had been ill since Christmas, and all excreta had been thrown into the canal and river. As it was most advisable she should be removed from the boat, and as there was not at the time accommodation for her at the Hospital, the husband was supplied with disinfectants, and instructed to disinfect and bury excreta till his arrival home next day. I communicated the facts to the Medical Officer of Health for the Parish to which she was removed. There was one death from this disease during the year.

DIARRHŒA.—Diarrhœa appeared in July and continued into October. It was very prevalent during August and September, 24 of a total of 28 deaths taking place during these two months. Twenty-two of the deaths were of infants one year old and under, and two were between one and two years of age.

DIPHTHERIA.—Typical cases of this disease are becoming more frequent than a few years ago. Eight were reported during the year. Two (both fatal) were in old badly lighted houses with low ceilings, and their basements considerably below the level of the ground at their back walls. Two occurred in a large block of recently and well-built houses, but which stand on a sight liable, at times, to be very damp; and with one of these cases were associated choked

drains and water in the cellar. Two were reported from a house which stands on the edge of the Canal. A fatal case occurred in this house four years ago. The house drains into a Cesspool a few feet from the door; and the Cesspool had not been cleaned out for years. The water supply was carried and stored under conditions which raised suspicions as to its purity. One case was removed to the Hospital. Two deaths are referred to this disease.

INFLUENZA.—Influenza was never entirely absent during the year, but was most prevalent during the months of February and November. The cases were generally of a mild character, but one death was directly referred to it.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—Whooping Cough was more or less prevalent for nine months of the year, beginning in April. Ten deaths were caused by it.

PHTHISIS.—Seventeen persons—all young and valuable lives—died of Phthisis (Consumption) during the year. This is an increase as compared with 1896 and 1897. Seventeen deaths were also registered as due to other forms of tubercular disease, making a total of 34 for the year.

The discovery some years ago and our present knowledge of the tubercle bacillus leave no room for doubt that Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis are communicated by this germ—principally through the air, or in food or drink—from man and animals already suffering. Consumption is, therefore, a preventable disease. This important fact has lately received much consideration, and has led to the formation of “The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis.” It is clearly the duty of Sanitary Authorities and their health officers to join in the crusade against this terribly fatal and much dreaded disease. But the intelligent co-operation of the people is essential, and thus one of the first things to be done is to interest and instruct the public in the subject. I mention this matter merely to introduce a question with which I hope to deal more fully on as early an occasion as possible.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply has been ample during the year. The following (No. 1) is the Analyst's report on a sample submitted to him:—

[COUNCIL'S WATER.]

No. 1.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DRINKING WATER.

Received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council
on September 24th, 1898. Sample Mark :—"C."

Physical Characters :

Suspended Matter, very small amount.

Appearance of a column two feet long, clear ; very
light brown.

Taste, normal. — Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 6·86 grains per gallon ; which lost on
Ignition, 1·54 grains.

Chlorine, 0·85 grains per gallon ; equal to Sodium Chloride,
1·40 grains.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, none ; equal to Nitric Acid
(anhydrous), grains none.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), grains per gallon, none.

Degrees of Hardness, 3·8. (Each degree of hardness repre-
sents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of
chalk per gallon.)

Reducing Power, 0·85 parts per million. (Representing the
Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable
matters in one million parts of water.)

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·06 parts per million.

These results are satisfactory. They afford no evidence
of contamination of the water by drainage or similar impurity,
and show the sample in its present condition to be free from
other than normal traces of readily-changeable organic matter.
The water is soft, and so far as analysis can decide is fit for
drinking and general domestic use.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

October 24th, 1898.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are Reports on Samples of the Water
Supplies to two Cowsheds and Dairies, and No. 5 of a pro-
posed supply from a surface well to Dwelling-houses near the
Canal, which, however, are now otherwise provided for.

No. 2.

Public Analyst's Laboratory

67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DRINKING WATER.

Received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council,
on July 28th, 1898. Sample Mark :—" B."

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter, considerable amount.

Appearance of a column two feet long, brown and
turbid.

Taste, earthy | Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 83·94 grains per gallon ; which lost on
Ignition, 15·34 grains.

Chlorine, 7·00 grains per gallon ; equal to Sodium Chloride,
11·53 grains.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 1·40 ; equal to Nitric Acid
(anhydrous), 5·40 grains.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.) grains per gallon none.

Degrees of Hardness, 36·0. (Each degree of Hardness repre-
sents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain
of chalk per gallon.)

Reducing power, 7·97. (Representing the Oxygen absorbed
by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one
million parts of water.)

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 1·07 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·24 parts per million.

These results show the water to have suffered contam-
ination by drainage or similar impurity. Objectionable traces
of readily-changeable organic matter still exist in the water
which, in my opinion, is not fit to drink.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

August 10th, 1898.

SHAW'S PUMP IN FARM YARD, RYCROFT.

No. 3.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,

67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DRINKING WATER

Received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council,
on July 28th, 1898. Sample Mark :—" A."

Physical Characters :

Suspended Matter, none.

Appearance of a column two feet long, clear and colourless.

Taste, normal. | Odour, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 52·64 grains per gallon ; which lost on Ignition, 11·62 grains.

Chlorine, 4·40 grains per gallon ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 7·25 grains.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 1·40 grains per gallon ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 5·40 grains.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), none.

Degrees of Hardness, 28. (Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.)

Reducing power, 0·98 parts per million. (Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.)

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·01 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·06 parts per million.

These results show the water to have suffered contamination by drainage or similar impurity. The polluting matter has subsequently undergone tolerably complete destruction by oxidation.

Such water must always be regarded with suspicion, and its use for drinking should be avoided.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

August 10th, 1898.

SPRING WATER, SHAW'S FARM, RYECROFT.

No. 4.

Public Analyst's Laboratory,
67, Surrey street, Sheffield.

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DRINKING WATER.

Received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council on September 24th, 1898. Sample Mark :—" D."

Physical Characters :

Suspended matter, very small amount,

Appearance of a column two feet long :—Clear and colourless.

Taste :—Normal. | Odour :—None.

On Analysis the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 66·64 grains per gallon ; which lost on Ignition, 11·20 grains.

Chlorine, 5·50 grains per gallon ; equal to Sodium Chloride, 9·06 grains.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 1·40 grains per gallon ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 5·40 grains.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), grains per gallon, None.

Degree of Hardness, 38. (Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.)

Reducing Power, 0·85 parts per million. (Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·03 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·10 parts per gallon.

These results show the water to have suffered extensive contamination by cesspool drainage or similar impurity. The greater part of the polluting matter has subsequently undergone spontaneous destruction by oxidation, but such a water must always be regarded with grave suspicion, and its use for drinking should be absolutely discontinued.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

October 24th, 1898.

ROUNDWOOD FARM WELL.

No. 5. Public Analyst's Laboratory,

67, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF DRINKING WATER,

Received from the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, on July 28th, 1898. Sample Mark :—" C."

Physical Characters :—

Suspended Matter, fair amount.

Appearance of a column two feet long, light brown and turbid.

Taste, normal.		Odour, none.
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On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Total Solid Matter, 41·86 grains per gallon ; which lost on ignition, 6·58 grains.

Chlorine, 6·00 grains per gallon ; equal to Sodium Chloride. 9·89 grains.

Nitrogen in oxidised forms, 0·47 grains per gallon ; equal to Nitric Acid (anhydrous), 1·81 grains.

Poisonous Metals (Lead, &c.), none.

Degrees of Hardness, 28·0 grains per gallon. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Reducing Power, 1·96 parts per million. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]

Free and Ureal Ammonia, 0·24 parts per million.

Albuminoid Ammonia, 0·12 parts per million.

These results show the water to have suffered contamination by drainage or similar impurity. Objectionable traces of readily-changeable organic matter still exist in the water, which, in my opinion, is not fit to drink.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

August 10th, 1898.

WELL AT EASTWOOD TOP LOCK.

One private well has been closed during the year.

SANITATION.

I have regularly attended the Sanitary Committee or Monthly Council Meetings, and read reports on the birth-rate, mortality, and general health of the parish. Monthly returns of the diseases prevalent in the district were sent to the Medical Officer of the County Council. Two special reports

were presented during the year, one dated August 2nd, on an outbreak of measles, and another dated October 12th, on the Isolation Hospital. Copies of both were sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council. That on the Isolation Hospital forms an appendix to this report.

I have inspected different parts of the district at various times in the company of the Sanitary Inspector. Visits have as usual been made to premises in which infectious disease existed, inquiries made into the circumstances associated with the disease, and verbal instructions given with a view to prevent its spread. Printed instructions as to precautionary measures, legal penalties, and cleansing, &c., and disinfectants were also sent to such houses. On receiving notifications of Scarlet Fever, information was given to the school authorities to exclude from the schools children coming from infected houses. In the case of Enteric Fever, the ashpits were cleansed, disinfected, and covered pails provided to receive excreta.

The drains of four dairies were completely overhauled and relaid up-to-date. On May 5th, after a thorough inspection of the old farm premises at Ryecroft, a notice was served on the owners to thoroughly repair the dwelling-house, to provide a proper water supply, and to make structural alterations in the Cowshed, in compliance with the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order 1885. On June 7th the matter was reported to you, and the water was ordered to be analysed. On August 17th the analyses—No. 2, the yard pump, and No. 3, a field spring water used—were submitted to you. The dwelling-house remains unoccupied, but the premises are still being used as a cowshed and dairy, although not registered.

At Roundwood Farm there are two pumps in the back kitchen, one connected with a tank and the other with a well. The tank water smells most offensively, and analysis No. 4 is that of the well. This analysis was presented to you on November 1st. On February 22nd the same water supply was in use.

Contaminated wells at dairies are often the cause of serious and widespread epidemics of disease, and when discovered prompt action should be taken to close them.

The Sanitary Inspector's and Surveyor's reports show other sanitary work done and improvements made during the year. I have to remind you of a serious state of matters, in which nothing has been done, referred to in my last year's report from which I make the following extract:—

“I have lately taken measurement of the depth of flow in the inspection chambers between the entrance to the Gasworks and Little Bridge, and confirmed in the

opinion I expressed in my last year's report, that, although there may be a fall between the two points named, the sewer does not fall uniformly between them, but undulates through subsidence. The inspection chambers in the main sewer between Providence Place, Rawmarsh, and the Little Bridge; in Greasbro' Road, Albert Road, and Victoria Road, require immediate alteration. At present they are practically square catch-pits filled with excrement &c., through which the liquid sewer has to find its way to the outlet. The smell in uncovering one of these chambers is almost overpowering, and it is no wonder complaints of sewer gas are frequent. With sewers of this state and many old drains with bad joints leading into them, the danger of health is too obvious. The flat bottom of these chambers ought to be at once channelled, with the invest of the same diameter as the sewer, so as not to interfere with the velocity of the current, and prevent deposits. Ventilating shafts and means for flushing are required at the heads of many of the streets, and regular flushing and inspection of sewers are much needed."

On recent examination of these chambers I found them in the same state as described in the above quotation.

Another street, New Street, Parkgate, which was for many years an eyesore, has been properly made. There are still a number of private streets in the parish requiring similar attention to make them sanitary.

We have had another year's experience of the removal of nightsoil and rubbish on the contract system. The record is much the same as usual, only worse than when the work was in the hands of the previous contractor. Refuse has been deposited where it was a nuisance; there have been many urgent complaints from householders; ash-pits overflowing often for weeks; carts and men put on by the Sanitary Inspector to overtake the work; and frequent and unpleasant discussions on your premises both upstairs and downstairs.

The Houses built during the year were nearly all of the ordinary cottage class. The great majority of their covered ash-pits are unventilated, and give rise to much complaint. Some of the backyards are most objectionable. With the exception of a few feet from the back doors they are unpaved and receive all kinds of rubbish thrown on to them by the tenants to keep them dry. Although the houses are occupied fall-pipes are unfinished, and some finished ones discharge on to the surface to saturate the soil and make the conditions still more unhealthy. There are two blocks—one in Ashwood road and one on the site of houses demolished three years ago in Moxon's yard—which are a disgrace to somebody. In the

former during wet weather rain finds its way through a good many of the bedroom ceilings, and drops on to the floor so freely that as one tenant told me they have to keep shifting out of one room into another. The kitchen floors of others are so damp as, in my opinion, to be uninhabitable. The plans of the block in Moxon's yard were objected to by your late Surveyor as they were contrary to your old bye-laws. The backyard of these houses is bounded on the greater part of its length by the high back wall of old property belonging to Earl Fitzwilliam. Against this wall are built blocks of coal houses and W. C.'s, which leave only eight and nine feet between them and the back doors. The west end of the yard is blocked up by a house facing into High street. There is neither sufficient sunlight, ventilation, nor airspace.

It is gratifying to me to be able to record that you rejected plans for 31 dwelling houses because the proposed site was an unhealthy one. I refer to this subject in another connection further on in this report.

I am also pleased to note that a splendid new ambulance on most approved principles has been secured during the year.

I have to congratulate you on the adoption of new bye-laws as to streets and buildings. I consider this a very important piece of work, and one of the most distinct advances made by you in the path of sanitary progress. I trust you will insist on their provisions being carried out.

I am sorry I have still to submit to you the following other recommendations for the future sanitary improvement of the parish. I am confident they will all have to be carried out sooner or later, and in my opinion the sooner the better.

1—The adoption of improved bye-laws regulating slaughter-houses, or the erection of a public slaughter-house.

I have recently inspected all the slaughter-houses in the parish, and found them generally fairly clean. They are all regularly lime-washed oftener than your present bye-laws require, but no oftener than is really needed. Their proximity to dwelling-houses (in one or two instances within a few feet), and the fact that one-half of them are congregated on a small area near the principal street, are obvious objections which render the adoption of improved bye-laws for their regulation all the more necessary. The question of Public versus Private Slaughter-houses has lately become prominent in connection with the subject of Tuberculosis in man and animals, and a very decided opinion and recommendation in favour of the former have been made by the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis. I think there can be little doubt that ere long legislation and the force of public opinion will greatly alter the existing state of matters *re*

slaughter-houses. I would, therefore, advise you to seriously consider the matter before granting any more licences for slaughter-houses under your present bye-laws.

2—The erection of a Destructor, or other efficient provision, for the disposal of night-soil and rubbish.

Night-soil and rubbish that could not otherwise be disposed of have for years been tipped into clay pits and other places all over the parish. In this connection I had to write during the year to your Chairman as follows:—

“ I find that a large quantity of night-soil has been deposited in the quarry at Dale Road, near dwelling-houses erected and in course of erection by Messrs. John Brown and Co., and in a clay pit immediately adjoining the road between Meadow works and the lower end of Clay Pit Lane. I consider these deposits serious nuisances, which should be removed as soon as possible.”

Both places referred to are near dwelling-houses, and are sites on which a few years hence it is quite likely proposals may be made to build. The night-soil was removed from the quarry, but hundreds of loads of rubbish had been previously tipped, and still remain there. The hole in Clay Pit Lane is still being filled up with all kinds of objectionable material, and will soon be level with the road.

This system, or rather want of system, leads to unpleasant difficulties and serious risks to the public health, as are exemplified in the following letter and report.

In July I wrote to the Chairman of the Building Committee as follows:—

“ I believe plans of 31 dwelling houses proposed to be erected in that field abutting on Netherfield lane and the Rectory field will be laid before the Building Committee to-night.

“ I have to remind you that the proposed site of these houses consists for several feet in depth of ashpit refuse impregnated with faecal and other objectionable material deposited there by the late Board's contractor for the removal of nightsoil, &c, in the year 1891-2, and I have to draw your attention to the 20th section of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, in force in this district.

“ ‘ It shall not be lawful to erect a new building on any ground which has been filled up with any matter impregnated with faecal, animal, or vegetable matter, or upon which any such matter has been deposited, unless and until such matters shall have been properly removed by excavation or otherwise, or shall have been rendered or have become innocuous.’

“The serious risk to the public health of building dwelling houses on such ground as that referred to is too obvious to require comment.”

This letter led to the subjoined report, signed by the Sanitary Inspector, the Surveyor, and myself.

“In accordance with your resolution, we have examined the site (indicated in the above plans), of which the accompanying sketch is a tracing.

“Two holes (figs. A and B) within the red circle C were dug till water was reached at a depth of about 4ft. 6in. from the surface. The whole of the excavated material consisted of privy ashes, with tins, old shoes, broken dishes, &c., and neither soil nor clay was reached. The water was dirty, and had an offensive odour. The red circle C shows the limits of a large clay pit, which had been filled up with offensive material as described. Other deposits of similar matter are indicated roughly by the blue figures D and E.

“We think nothing short of removal of the whole of this objectionable matter can justify the Council in passing the plans under consideration.”

This deposit was overgrown with grass, its existence had been nearly forgotten, and the gentleman who shortly before bought the land for building purposes had lived in the parish many years, and yet was quite ignorant that he had bought privy ashes and the usual concomitants for good land.

I have stated these incidents in detail because they illustrate forcibly one grave danger of continuing on the old lines—a danger which, as you will also gather from the Sanitary Inspector's report, is yearly increasing and becoming more urgent, and because the prompt and proper collection and disposal of such refuse is a highly important work intimately connected with the health of the people.

3—The adoption of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

I have stated in previous reports, and especially in last year's one, to which I beg to refer you, the arguments in favour of the adoption of this Act, and I need not repeat them so soon. I may state however, that I have not heard any arguments from a public health point of view against its adoption, and to which I might refer.

4—The adoption of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, which relates to:—

Inspection of Dairies within and without your district, and gives power to prohibit the supply of milk likely to spread infectious disease.

Cleansing and disinfecting of premises and bedding.

Penalty for ceasing to occupy recently infected house without disinfection, or notice to owner of house having been recently infected.

Retention, removal, and burial of bodies of persons who have died of infectious disease.

Disinfection of public conveyances.

Detention of infected persons without proper lodging.

Disinfection of infected rubbish thrown into ashpit.

Provision of free temporary shelter when a house is being disinfected.

Not long ago a young man died of Enteric Fever in the front room of a small four-room cottage, occupied by six adults and a boy, in a thickly populated block. In one of the two bedrooms upstairs lay his married sister suffering from the same disease. The danger of keeping a dead body under such circumstances was pointed out to the parents, whom I urged to bury with all possible despatch. The Sanitary Inspector and a member of the Council used their influence in the same direction, but all to no purpose, and the body was kept from Tuesday morning till Sunday afternoon. In the interim it was on view to all the friends and neighbours, who were invited and freely took advantage of the opportunity. This is only an example of what happens in connection with other fatal cases of infectious disease, and you are at present powerless to prevent it. The possibility of such danger should be ended by the immediate adoption of the Act.

5—Proper Hospital accommodation, arranged and equipped to isolate more than one infectious disease at a time; also an efficient disinfector.

A noteworthy fact to be recorded is the large number of children removed to your present Hospital during the year. The total was 42, and there were no deaths. As I have already stated 41 were cases of Scarlet Fever, and the death rate was nil compared with 6·6 per cent. among those treated at their own homes. There can be little doubt that parents throughout the Parish are becoming more enlightened on this subject, and are beginning to appreciate the private as well as the public advantage of allowing their children to be promptly isolated when suffering from infectious disease. With a properly equipped, attractive, and well staffed Hospital, I believe very few parents would object to removal of their children, and that there would soon be a considerable and permanent reduction in our Zymotic disease and death rates. On more than one occasion I have been in a difficulty because of the want of accommodation for isolating more than one infectious

disease at a time, and this difficulty led to the special report of October 12th, on your existing Hospital, which you all know is only better than none. I know that within the last few months you have made every effort to be included in the Wath, Greasboro', Swinton, and North Rotherham Joint Hospital Board, and for many reasons, I hope you will be successful. Should it prove otherwise I trust you will then proceed, as quickly as possible, with a scheme of your own.

In the absence of an efficient disinfecter one is greatly hampered and discouraged in dealing with infected houses after the recovery of the patients.

6 (a)—The adoption of bye-laws under the 23rd and 26th Sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, which deal with the following matters :—

SECTION 23.—Keeping water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing ;

The structure of floors, hearths, and staircases, and the height of rooms intended to be used for human habitation ;

The paving of yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling houses ; and

The provision in connection with the laying out of new streets, of secondary means of access where necessary for the purpose of removal of house refuse and other matters.

SECTION 26—Prescribing the time for removal of offensive matter through streets whether from within, without, or through the Authorities' district.

Providing that receptacles, carts, &c., shall be properly constructed and covered.

Compelling cleansing of any place where such matter has been spilt or dropped in removal.

Imposing duties on the occupier of premises in connection with removal of house refuse, so as to facilitate such work when the local authority undertakes or contracts for it.

(b) The adoption of improved bye-laws, under the 44th Section of the Public Health Act, 1875, for the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust ashes, and rubbish ; and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises, so as to be injurious to health.

I consider bye-laws, under these two principal heads, no less important than those for new streets and buildings which you recently and wisely adopted. Their chief object is to

prevent air, and especially soil contamination, which is known to be a most potent factor in the causation of different diseases. The frequent removal of night soil, &c., which will be necessary, under the improved construction of ash-pits, makes secondary means of access highly essential, both for sanitary and financial reasons. Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, you have now power to compel the cleansing of common yards, or to do the work and charge the several occupiers with the cost. Apart from the health aspect of this question, it is only fair and reasonable that tenants, subject to such wholesome control, should have yards it is possible to clean and keep clean. It is almost impossible to do so with a great many old yards; and I am sorry to say that during the year a good many new ones have come into existence to which the same remark applies.

Your present old regulations in connection with the keeping of animals allow the multiplication of conditions, some of which are continuously dangerous to health, and others recurrently so. They also place a most unpleasant responsibility on the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health, and create much ill-feeling and difficulty in endeavours to remedy nuisances. With model bye-laws, under the 44th section of the Public Health Act, 1875, many unhealthy conditions would be prevented and nuisances would be much more easily dealt with.

Accompanying this report are Form K² 3 (A) duly filled up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, and Table C provided by the Medical Officer of the County Council. I am unable to fill up satisfactorily Form K² 11 (B), supplied by the Local Government Board, because the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, is not in force in the Parish.

JAMES PICKEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Parkgate, March 7th, 1899.

Special Report on the Isolation Hospital.

Parkgate, October 12th, 1898.

SIR,—

Instructed by the Rawmarsh Urban District Council, as requested in your letter to them of May 31st last, I now beg to report “explaining the nature of the means of isolation available in the district, and the circumstances which prevent

the District Council from any further isolation of infectious disease when a single case of one disease happens to be in the hospital.”

The Rawmarsh Isolation Hospital was erected hurriedly at the end of the year 1887, during an epidemic of small pox. It consists of two blocks. Block A, shown in the accompanying plan No. 1, contains a male and female ward, nurse's room, caretaker's house, &c, and is built of brick. Block B, shown in plan No. 2, is built of wood on a brick foundation.

The site comprises 2240 square yards enclosed by a wooden fence 8ft. high. It is situated in the corner of a field on the eastern side of the town, bounded on the south by Victoria road and New street, Parkgate, and on the north—but at a greater distance—by Green lane, Rawmarsh. The nearest houses are distant 167 yards in New street, and 302 yards in Green lane. The field is practically a recreation ground and public park, and is traversed by several foot-paths—one of which is lighted by public lamps—much frequented by people as the shortest way to different parts of the district.

The buildings stand on sloping ground, and a few feet from the north side of Block A is a ditch which receives surface water from a considerable area. The subsoil is clay, covered with only two or three inches of surface soil.

The scullery, caretaker's house, female ward, and nurse's room, comprising the greater part of the brick erection is an old farmhouse and outbuildings repaired. The cowshed and stables were converted into the female ward and nurse's room. The whole of this old part is built of clamp bricks. The other part, viz., the male ward, store room, bath room, mortuary, and fumigating room, is new, and is built of fairly good bricks.

The caretaker's house is the two-storied part. On the lower floor it consists of a kitchen and sitting room in front, and, on a lower level two steps down, of a bath room with unenclosed earth closet and a pantry respectively behind. On the second floor are two separate pairs of bedrooms, reached by two separate flights of stairs from the kitchen and sitting room. The small back bedrooms are on a lower level than the larger front ones, and have to be passed through to get to the latter. The floors of the kitchen, bath room, and pantry are of sandstone flags. They are very damp, as are also the external and partition walls, which are unprotected by a damp course. The bath is provided with hot and cold water fittings. The hot water cylinder is in a corner of the kitchen, and is heated from the sitting room fire, which is seldom used, and fails when used to produce hot water at the bath

tap. The scullery leads directly from the kitchen, and is also damp. It is laid with 9-inch tiles, and is provided with a sink, set-pot, and common fireplace. The sitting room communicates directly with the kitchen, and is separated from the female ward by a small porch, 4ft. by 4ft., and 6ft. 6in. high, taken off the ward. The following are some of the measurements of the caretaker's quarters :—

Kitchen, 13ft. 3in. by 11ft. 9in., by 7ft. 11in. high.

Sitting Room, 13ft. 3in. by 11ft. 9in., by 7ft. 11in. high.

Bath Room, 8ft. 3in. by 9ft. 3in., by 7ft. 6in. high.

Pantry, 8ft. 3in. by 9ft. 3in., by 7ft. 6in. high.

Two Back Bedrooms, 8ft. 3in. by 9ft. 3in., by 6ft. 6in. average height.

Two Front Bedrooms, 13ft. 3in. by 11ft. 9in., by 7ft. 11in. high.

The Female Ward is 27 ft. 6 in. long, 13 ft. 6 in. broad, and 15 ft. 6 in. high, and has a cubic capacity of 5434 feet. A damp course of lead was put in the walls a few years ago. There is a ventilated space beneath the floor, but no concrete or other protecting layer here or beneath any other corresponding part of the Hospital buildings. The floor is of red wood, and the joints are wide. The walls are plastered and whitewashed, and are visibly damp owing to the porosity of the old bricks. It is lighted by two opposite windows on either wall. In wet weather rain finds its way underneath some of the frames and runs down the wall. The front windows are 5 ft. 2 in. from the floor, and the back ones which are smaller are 7ft. 9in. from the floor. There is one square foot of window to 86 cubic feet of space. They are fitted with a fanlight. This and the doors are the only means of ventilation. The ward is efficiently heated by a closed slow combustion stove. A wooden partition 6 ft. 10 in. in height at the end of the ward shuts it off from the bathroom and earth closets, common to both male and female wards.

The Nurses' Room situated between the two wards is formed, like the apartments already described, of old walls, and has been exceptionally damp. A damp course was put in the walls sometime ago, the effect of which is yet uncertain. The single window is 6 feet above the floor and is fitted with a fanlight. The room is heated by an ordinary fireplace. Its cubic capacity is 2917 feet.

The Male Ward is 33 ft. long, 14 ft. broad, and 11 ft. high, and has a cubic capacity of 4967 feet. With the exception of the southern end wall which is very damp, and that part of the wall common to it and the nurses room, the walls of this ward are dry, as there is a damp course of gas tar and sand, and the bricks are of a better quality. My remarks as to the floor, space underneath, arrangement of the windows,

ventilation and heating of the female ward apply also to the male ward. There is one square foot of window to 81 cubic feet of space.

The small projecting pavilion, containing a bath, sink, and two earth closets, is ventilated by a skylight. There is no cross-ventilation. The bath is cased in with wood, and is supplied with cold water only. All hot water has to be carried from the scullery at the end of the caretaker's house.

The whole of Block A stands, if anything, below ground level, and there is scarcely a perfectly water-tight ceiling in the place. The old part is roofed with pan tiles.

Block B (Plan No. 2) which comprises a male and female ward and a dining room, is built of wood, with a slate roof, and is supported on a brick foundation raised well above the ground level. There is a well ventilated space beneath the floor which communicates with each apartment by means of a grating on either side of three slow combustion stoves. The walls consist of two layers of red wood with a layer of felt between. They are varnished internally. The floors are of similar wood, with wide joints. The ceiling is plastered and whitewashed. There is a Boyle's air pump in the ceiling of the two wards. Light is obtained by windows in the front wall, and by opening skylights on either side of the roof—two for each apartment. The windows are 6ft. 4in. from the floor in the two wards, and with the skylights, give one square foot of window to 127 cubic feet of space. The measurements are as follows;—

Male Ward, 24ft. by 22ft. by 14ft. high—6892 cubic feet.

Female Ward, 24ft. by 22ft., by 14ft. high—6892 cubic feet.

Dining Room, 20ft. by 24ft., by 14ft. high—6215 cubic feet.

The Pavilion projecting behind the main building is divided into two. Each half contains an earth closet and sink provided with cold water supply. They are lighted and ventilated by two small skylight windows each. The entrance to each is shut off from the ward by a wooden partition 5ft. 8in. high.

The Mortuary contains two wooden shelves, and is lighted by a small window. It communicates with the fumigating room, which is an absolutely empty apartment. The floors of both are laid with ordinary $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch bricks. They measure respectively 4ft. 9in. by 9ft. 3in. by 7ft. 11in. high, and 9ft. 3in. by 5ft. 9in. by 7ft. 11in. high. As shown in plan No. 1, they adjoin the Caretaker's house and scullery. There is no efficient disinfecter. Infected clothes, bedding, &c., are subjected to the fumes of sulphurous acid in the room referred to.

The Ambulance is an old worn-out cab.

The Council supply gas and water from their own mains.

A six-inch sanitary pipe drain passes into the ditch already referred to on the northern side of Block A. It terminates in the ditch about 30 yards from the north-east corner of the wooden fence. I have reason to believe the joints of this drain are defective. Most of the fall pipes enter directly into the drain. Their joints are not caulked, and many of them are widely open. Excreta are buried in the adjoining field to the east, where there is no likelihood of contamination of water supply, &c.

The caretaker, previous to his appointment a year ago, was a miner. When there are no cases in the hospital, he is employed outside by the Council. His wife and he are also the permanent nursing staff.

The Hospital, as I have already stated, was erected very hurriedly to deal with an epidemic of small-pox. I hardly think the then Local Board considered in its construction the question of future isolation in it of more than one class of infectious disease at a time. At any rate, it is certain the wooden erection was built to receive convalescent small-pox patients from Block A, so as to make room for fresh cases of the disease in that block. Consequently, there is no bath room nor proper accommodation for a nurse in the convalescent block. To isolate one disease here and another in Block A, all food, &c., would have to be carried from the scullery, which is in close proximity to the living room of the caretaker and his wife, who would be nursing a case or cases of another infectious disease close by. In this scullery, a small place, 12ft. by 9ft. 3in. by 7ft. 3in. high, all the cooking and washing for the staff and patients have to be done ; and the only efficient hot water apparatus in the whole establishment is the setpot here from which all hot water needed for baths, cleansing, &c., has to be carried. Under such circumstances the food could scarcely escape being exposed to infection from clothes, &c., ready to wash or in the process of being washed. The absence of an efficient disinfectant and of a ready and abundant supply of hot water for general cleansing and bath purposes tend to the dissemination of infection throughout the buildings. In the face of these difficulties reliance would have to be placed on individuals who have had no training or experience in dealing with infectious disease.

These and other considerations which readily suggest themselves in studying the structure and arrangement of the hospital, have prevented me from accepting the responsibility of advising the reception of more than one class of infectious disease at the same time.

The land and the brick part—Block A—are held on a yearly tenancy from the Rector of Rawmarsh.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES PICKEN,

Medical Officer of Health,

Rawmarsh Urban District Council.

To the Secretary,

Local Government Board, London.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector,

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1898 I have reported to the Sanitary Committee of your Council at the monthly meetings, that notices have been served for the abatement of the following nuisances :—

	NOTICES.
Choked Drains	54
Defective Drains	15
„ Sink Pipes	7
„ W.C's.	3
„ Spouting and Fall Pipes, causing wet dwellings... ..	15
Accumulation of Water in Ashpits and offensive Percolations therefrom ...	16
Repairs to Dwellings	15
Accumulation of Water on Yard Surface, causing wet dwellings	5
Repairs to Ashpits and Privies	5
Polluted Water in Rain Water Underground Tank	4
Defective Privies	3
Deficient Privy Accommodation	3
Defective Water Supply to W.C.	2
Polluted Water Supply to Dwellings ...	2
Over-crowding	2
Replace Privies with W.C. to Five Houses	1
Cease Keeping Pigs so as to be a Nuisance	1
To put Cowshed in a proper Sanitary condition	1
To Pave or Asphalt Yard, making dry area	1
To Remove Offensive Accumulation of Manure	2
Accumulation of Water in Cellar	1
Occupiers to Cleanse Privies	1

To Provide Reasonable Access to Ashpits for cleansing purposes	1
To Cleanse House after Infectious Disease	1
To Close a Polluted Well	1
	<hr/> 162

All of which have been complied with, or are promised attention.

DRAINAGE.

Drains have been re-laid in Pump Yard; 9 cottages, Upper Haugh; Sarum Terrace; Alexandria Hotel; 4 Farm Houses, Upper Haugh, occupied by Messrs. W. Shaw, R. Dyson, Geo. Robinson, and Mrs. Lawton, where old rubble drains, permeated with rat runs, have been taken out and replaced with sanitary tubes with interceptors, inspection chambers and ventilators, making a marked sanitary improvement in these Cowsheds and Dairy Farms.

New Sewer re-laid in New Street, Parkgate, on account of previous sewer on examination being found very defective. The Kilnhurst Road sewer extended to Queen's Row, and also sewer at Upper Haugh carried forward near to the Wesleyan Chapel.

The much needed ventilation of the sewers has not yet been accomplished. Complaints have been frequent of emanations of sewer gas at Sandhill, Ryecroft, Kilnhurst Road, Green Lane, and Broad Street. Wherever drains have been exposed that have been laid more than 10 years, very defective joints and connections have had to be remedied.

Drains have been tested by smoke and water where necessary.

FOOD ANALYSIS.

Four samples of milk have been submitted for analysis under County Council's regulations to A. H. Allen, Esq., County Analyst, who has certified all the samples of "Fair Quality."

Five samples of Water have been submitted also for analysis by Mr. Allen—Four of the samples were private sources of supply, three of them to Dairy Farms, and one to a Private House, all of which were certified "as unfit for domestic purposes and their use should be discontinued." Although attention has been promised in the case of the Dairy Farms as yet no other supply has been provided. Arrangements have been completed for a supply of water to Houses at Eastwood Locks—conveyed by iron tank as required from the Council's Mains near Aldwarke Main Colliery. The water obtained by sinking a well for the said two houses on analysis proved pollution.

Mr. W. Willey's well, in Bear Tree road, has been closed in accordance with notice served under Section 70 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and the Town's Water laid on.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 17 Registered Slaughterhouses. There has been one change of occupancy during the year. I have visited each one at intervals and found them in fairly clean condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There were registered Dec. 31st, 1897, 17 cowsheds & dairies.

„	„	During 1898,	5	„	„	„
Applications to be registered not yet						
completed consequent of Insanitary						
condition	2	„	„	„
			<hr/>			
			24			

Persons given up cowshed or dairy	...	3
„ removal	...	1
„ dead	...	1
		<hr/>
		5

Leaving now on register 17 Cowkeepers and Dairymen with 2 in abeyance.

VISITATION.

I have visited the Yards and Premises of 11,027 Houses during the year, accompanied by Medical Officer of Health when required.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There has been notified during the year:—

191 cases of Scarlet Fever in 153 Houses.

15	„	Typhoid	„	15	„
8	„	Diphtheria	„	8	„
<hr/>				<hr/>	
214	Cases in			176	„

In the appended portion of the district:—

	Rawmarsh.	Parkgate.	Sandhill.	Birch Road & Low Stubin.
Scarlet Fever	70	67	49	5
Typhoid „	5	9	1	..
Diphtheria	2	5	1	...
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	77	81	51	5

HOSPITAL.

There have been admitted to Infectious Hospital during 1898 :—

41	Patients suffering from Scarlet Fever.
1	„ „ Diphtheria.
—	
42	
—	

A new Ambulance, on latest approved principle, has been procured during the year for the conveyance of patients to Hospital.

REFUSE REMOVAL.

There has been removed during the year :—

By CONTRACT—

	Loads.		Ashpits.		Nights.
George Emery (3 months)	2309	from	757	in	78
John Winder (9 months) ...	5963	„	2075	„	214

By Men specially put on by me—

Six days	158	„	35	„	6
	—		—		—
	8430		2867		298
	—		—		—

Which shows an increase of 637 loads, from 82 more ashpits, no doubt accounted for by the increased number of ashpits of new houses erected during the year.

This work is not as expeditiously or so well done as if done direct by the Council. In June last carts had to be put on extra to remove accumulations of refuse which were much complained of. This is a more difficult task than appears at first sight, to step in when a contractor is at fault. Refuse removal is becoming a difficult question in this district, as suitable places for deposit are becoming very scarce. The present tip at Boat Yard, which has served since 1894, will not last much longer, and this will necessitate very shortly the attention of the Council. I suggest the Council consider the placing of water closets, instead of privy middens, to all newly erected property, in the interest of economy as well as of health, especially where the drains and sewers are in a sanitary condition to receive the same.

Gentlemen, I am,

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITEHEAD.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
RAWMARSH.

To the Rawmarsh Urban District Council.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report, as Surveyor to your Council.

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.—The number of miles of Highways in the Urban District, repairable by the Council, is:—

Main Roads	...	4 miles 20 yards
Other Roads	...	10 „ 1442 „
Total	...	14 miles 1462 yards.

FOOTPATHS.—Main Roads ... 3 miles 1293 yards.
Other Roads ... 10 „ 1323 „

Total ... 15 miles 96 yards.

The paving of the Footpaths is composed of Flags, Asphalte, and Ashes.

There are 12 miles 798 yards of Public Footpaths through the fields, &c., in various parts of the District, the whole of which have been repaired with Ashes during the year.

The following Roads and Streets have been repaired with Parkgate Grey Cinders, viz.:—Rawmarsh Hill (from Police Station to Cemetery), Pottery Street, Holly Bush Street (to Albert Road), Albert Road (to Netherfield Lane), Westfield Road, Kilnhurst Road (from Wesleyan Chapel to Clay Pit Lane) Clay Pit Lane (part), Victoria Road (part), Haugh Lane (for 886 yards), Stubbin Road (part), and No. 1, Main Road (part), in addition to which general repairs have been executed in other roads and streets from time to time.

Asphalte has been laid on the following footpaths, viz.:—Dilk's road, Green lane (part), Broad street (from Aldwarke road to Holly Bush), Holly Bush street (part), Albert road (part), Dale road (part), Lloyd street (part), Cross street (part), Rawmarsh Hill (part), Clay Pit lane (part), Netherfield lane (part), Westfield road (part), and general repairs in various parts of the town.

Peashill lane has been ashed with engine ashes.

New kerbing has been laid in Rawmarsh Hill, Green lane, Lloyd street, and Netherfield lane. The old W.R. sett crossing at the junction of Aldwarke road with Broad street has been taken up and an asphalted crossing substituted.

New street and Peashill street have been completed under the 150th Section of the Public Health Act, 1875, but they have not been dedicated as public highways. Notice under the above section has been served upon the owners of Foljambe street to put the same into a proper state of repair.

SEWERS.—The Main Sewer at the Haugh has been extended 90 yards with 9 in. sanitary pipes; Chapel street sewer, Parkgate, has been relaid with 100 yards of 12 in. sanitary pipes, owing to the old sewer having become choked through subsidences; Kilnhurst road sewer has been extended 110 yards Westward with 9 in. sanitary pipes, and 100 of 12 in. sanitary pipes have been used in the extension of Aldwarke road sewer. The whole of the above sewers have been provided with all the necessary manholes, lampholes, flushing and inspection chambers.

I have reported during the year blockages of the Main Sewers in Aldwarke Road and Wannop Street. These were easily removed with the sewer rods, and afterwards flushed. Kilnhurst Road Sewer was blocked, and upon examination I found that it occurred at its junction with Clay Pit Lane, where it diminishes at this point from a 12-inch pipe into a 9-inch pipe, and there was a plug of clay the full bore of the 9-inch pipe, which had been left in when the sewer was constructed. I have caused a man-hole to be built at this point for the purpose of examination and flushing.

A portion of the Storm Water Sewer has been diverted at the rear of the Rotherham Old Bank premises, and an open dyke formed at the south side of the Cricket Field to the existing dyke below the Fever Hospital, to take the storm water from this locality.

The whole of the Main Sewers and Dykes in the district have been carefully examined, inspected, and flushed from time to time.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The re-laying out of the land at the Outfall Works for irrigation purposes is being carried out. Extensive experiments have been made with various precipitants, and the effluent from the works has been highly satisfactory. Owing to the very primitive method of emptying the Sludge Ponds by breaking through the banks each time they were emptied, I have had a Brick Sluice built, with a wooden door. By this means the sludge is speedily removed.

A portion of land at these works is required by the Midland Railway Company for extensions of their railway. This and other land and works are referred to in a later portion of this report.

PUMPING STATION.—The whole of the pumps and machinery at this station are in a very satisfactory condition.

The quantity of sewage pumped is far in excess of the previous year, and it is at present considerably above what it should be for the inhabitants of Rawmarsh.

The sewage tanks in the Gas Works yard, which receive the whole of the sewage from Dilk's Buildings, have been regularly pumped and emptied. This portion of the town is a very costly part, and it would be a great boon to this Council if the Midland Railway could be induced to clear the whole of the houses away by their new extensions.

Owing to the enormous quantity of storm water which finds its way into the sewers, it has taken a large amount of my time in trying if possible to locate its source. I have by personal tests and examinations, taken in all weathers during the day and night, been able to trace a large amount, but in a mining locality like this it is nearly impossible to prevent the whole of the storm water from obtaining an entrance into the sewers, owing to subsidences continually taking place, and the subsoil being heavily charged with water.

I hope, however, in a subsequent report during the coming year, to be able to lay before you a scheme whereby the present enormous cost might be considerably lessened, and many of our present difficulties overcome. The ventilation of the whole of the main sewers will also receive special consideration.

NEW BUILDINGS.—The past year has been a record one for Rawmarsh with regard to the depositing of plans for new streets and buildings. No doubt this is due in a large measure to your proposed adoption of the Model Building By-laws, which were confirmed by the Local Government Board on the 15th day of December, 1898.

It is very encouraging to officials when they find that the Council are prepared to assist them in carrying out their multifarious duties for the betterment of the district, for I am more than confident the passing of these by-laws, will greatly add to the health and comfort of the inhabitants.

Plans have been submitted for 6 new streets and 274 new houses. The whole of the houses are of the cottage class.

The total number of Plans submitted for approval were 71, of which 21 were disapproved owing to their not complying with the by-laws.

164 Houses have been occupied during the year. Certificates have not been given in all cases owing to the yards not being paved or asphalted. To my mind this is a very important question. As I reported in April last, that owing to the owners of property not paving their yards till it suited their convenience, I should decline to grant certificates to such houses, until this part of the sanitary requirements were completed. Since that time, however, no

plan has been approved which does not either show or state that the yards will be either paved or asphalied.

STABLES.—During the year, by the advice of the Veterinary Surgeon the old horse, “Short,” which has been in your possession for the past 28 years, had to be destroyed, owing to its foot being almost severed by a piece of scrap iron, whilst working in the Parkgate Iron Works. The three remaining ones have been regularly employed upon the highways, &c. It is important that something should be done to provide new stables and cart-sheds, as the present ones are in an old and delapidated condition. Shed accommodation is greatly required. At present the carts, scraper, and water-carts, have to stand in the open yard, and are subjected to all kinds of weather, which seriously affects them.

MARKET.—The vacant piece of land at the side of the Council Offices has been excavated, levelled, and laid out for the purposes of a market. The whole site has been pitched and covered with tar macadam. Seventeen covered wooden stalls have been fixed, gas and water laid on, two w.c.’s provided, and the whole is very compact and sheltered for an open market.

A notice has been served upon the owner of land abutting upon Clay Pit Lane, to remove an encroachment upon the public highway, and the same is being carried out.

Three notices have been served under sec. 83 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, to remove dangerous obstructions and buildings, and the same has been complied with.

Plans and estimates have been prepared and forwarded to the County Council asking their permission to renew the footpath on the west side of Rotherham and Swinton Main Road, from the Boat Yard to Little Bridge, and from Taylor’s Lane to Oxley’s Steel Works, the whole to be laid with 12in. by 8in. Greenmoor kerb and 3in. flags at a cost of £499 18s. 6d.

As I reported in November last, the Midland Railway Company have deposited plans with Parliament for extensive alterations and additions to their railway in this district, which greatly affect this Council with regard to the existing bridges, roadways, land at the Gas Works, and the Sewage Outfall Works. The whole of this important question was referred to a special Committee.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. PETCH,

Surveyor.